

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of processing a digital video data signal (DVS) containing data relating to rectangular pictures, said method of processing comprising a segmentation step (SEG) for segmenting the digital video data signal so as to provide segmented video data signals (SVS), a segmented video data signal containing a video object (VO) which is a region of the rectangular picture, characterized in that said method of processing comprises:
- 5     — an identification step (ID) for identifying with an identifier to which video object of the segmented video data signals a pixel of the rectangular picture belongs, and
- 10    — an insertion step (INS) for inserting the identifiers into the digital video data signal so as to form a modified digital video data signal (DVSm) to be encoded by a video-object-based encoding framework.
2. A method of processing a digital video data signal (DVS) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the digital video data signal is defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 and the insertion step (INS) comprises a first sub-step of inserting (ADP) the
- 15    identifiers into an ancillary data packet as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, and a second sub-step of inserting (VBS) the ancillary data packet into a vertical blanking space of the digital video data signal at a row level.
3. A method of processing a digital video data signal (DVS) as claimed in claim
- 20    1, characterized in that the identification step (ID) is adapted to assign an identifier coded on two bits to a given pixel of the rectangular picture.
4. A device for processing a digital video data signal (DVS) containing data relating to rectangular pictures, said processing device comprising means for segmenting
- 25    (SEG) the digital video data signal so as to provide segmented video data signals (SVS), a segmented video data signal containing a video object (VO) which is a region of the rectangular picture, characterized in that said processing device comprises:
- means for identifying (ID) with an identifier to which video object of the segmented video data signals a pixel of the rectangular picture belongs, and

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- means for inserting (INS) the identifiers into the digital video data signal so as to form a modified digital video data signal (DVSm) to be encoded by a video-object-based encoding framework.

5 5. A processing device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the digital video data signal is defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 and the inserting means (INS) are adapted to first insert the identifiers into an ancillary data packet (ADP) as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, which is subsequently inserted into a vertical blanking space (VBS) of the digital video data signal at a row level.

10 6. A processing device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the identifying means (ID) are adapted to assign an identifier coded on two bits to a given pixel of the rectangular picture.

15 7. A digital video data signal as defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 comprising ancillary data packets as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, an ancillary data packet being accommodated in a vertical blanking space of the digital video data signal at a row level, characterized in that the ancillary data packet comprises identifiers corresponding to video objects, said video objects resulting from a segmentation process of  
20 rectangular pictures contained in the digital video data signal.